

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 469

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Donald William Jackson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Donald William Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Don Jackson was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a former commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Revenue, Donald William Jackson was appointed to the post by Governor Lamar Alexander in January of 1984 and was named the commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration on October 15, 1985, rendering meritorious service as the Alexander administration came to a close in January of 1987; and

WHEREAS, born on September 19, 1920, Donald William Jackson was a graduate of Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, and received the Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship to the University of Denver where he earned his Master of Arts degree in government management in the School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance in 1947. He obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Nashville School of Law and was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1959; and

WHEREAS, a member of this Nation's "Greatest Generation", Don Jackson proudly answered the call to duty during World War II and served in the United States Army where he was stationed in Alaska and had roles in building the new highway to Alaska. He also served in Military Counter-Intelligence in Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, before joining the State of Tennessee in an official capacity, Mr. Jackson served from 1959 to 1983 with the Tennessee Taxpayers Association, a lobbying group which was a predecessor of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and

WHEREAS, in his capacity as executive director of the Tennessee Taxpayers Association, he traveled the state to speak with business owners and make sure their concerns were raised in the halls of government in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, called to serve the people of Tennessee, Don Jackson put his business acumen to work quickly as he played an important role in bringing the Saturn automobile manufacturing plant to Spring Hill, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as Commissioner of Finance and Administration, Commissioner Jackson oversaw the development of a prison reform budget, presented to the General Assembly in an extraordinary legislation session called in November 1985, to improve prison conditions and set the state on the path to regain state control of the prison system from federal court oversight; and

WHEREAS, legislation was enacted for a capital outlay program to modernize state prisons and eliminate overcrowding, for prison operating program budget improvements, for a new community corrections program, for a comprehensive review and reform of offender sentencing, and to establish a policy of recognizing the long-term cost of crime legislation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson was also responsible for managing and preparing the final Budget for Governor Alexander and overseeing the financial transition to the next Administration as the 1986-1987 Budget proposed the 1986 Roads Program, which continues to guide state highway policy today and established the policy of constructing and maintaining the state highway system on a pay-as-you-go basis which has allowed Tennessee to eliminate the cost of issuing debt for highway projects and contributes to the State of Tennessee's being one of the lowest per-capita debt states today; and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of Brentwood United Methodist Church for many years, Mr. Jackson was also an active member of the Nashville Downtown Rotary Club and other business and civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, a kind and inquisitive gentleman with a calm nature that brought untold benefit to both his personal and professional life, Mr. Jackson was an avid reader, bridge player, and dog lover who also enjoyed woodworking; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Mr. Jackson was preceded in death by his wife of thirty-two years, Frances Hunter Jackson, and his first wife, Sylvia Cline Jackson. He is survived by his three children, Pam Henderson and husband Rick, Sheryl Jackson, and Craig Jackson and wife Joyce; and two grandchildren, grandson Collen Jackson and granddaughter Ashley Jackson and husband Reed Schular; and

WHEREAS, Don Jackson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Donald William Jackson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Jackson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.